

Unit 22. Upper Mulchatna River Corridor

Background

Land Status. The unit is owned by the state. The headwaters of the Mulchatna River are located in adjacent Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The unit is located within the Lake and Peninsula Borough.

Miles of River. The main channel of the Mulchatna River extends for 52 miles.

Access. Accessibility is difficult for motorboats and airplanes along the river. The main access points for floating drop-offs are Half Cabin Lake and Loon Lake (both located outside the unit). Turquoise Lake (in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve) is also a potential floating access point, but low water periods may make floating infeasible. The unit is about a one-hour flight from Iliamna, but much use is based directly out of Anchorage and the Kenai vicinity.

Existing Development. No development is documented in the unit.

Fisheries. The Mulchatna River serves as a migrational corridor for salmon and provides important spawning and rearing habitat for king, coho, and chum salmon.

Subsistence fishing use is low. Sport fishing use is low and is usually associated with hunting and floating.

Wildlife. Moose density is moderate; caribou density is high.

Subsistence hunting use is very low. Sport hunting use is very high during September and is mostly associated with float trips. Guided and outfitted hunting use is high for moose, caribou, and brown bear.

Trails and Easements. None.

Other Values. Scenic values are high because of high landscape diversity and good views of nearby uplands. Floating use is high and is both guided and unguided. The river includes no whitewater, except for a 1-2 mile section of Class I and a Class III ledge 30 miles upstream from the Chilikadrotna.

Management Intent

Semi-primitive use experience.

Management Guidelines

Long-term Use (longer than 14 consecutive days at one site)

Permanent facilities	Prohibited.
Temporary facilities	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Trapping cabins	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Boat storage	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Airstrip development	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Docks: permanent	Prohibited.
temporary	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Other uses	May be allowed (case-by-case).

Short-term Use (14 consecutive days or less at one site)

See Short-term Uses (generally allowed uses) in Chapter 2.

Other Guidelines Specific to this Unit

- U22.1 Long-term Uses Associated with Mineral/Oil and Gas Activity. For long-term uses associated with mineral and oil and gas exploration and development, see Chapter 2 guideline.
- U22.2 Siting Criteria. Long-term uses will be sited to minimize evidence of human use.

Public Use Sites

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on maps in Appendix C.

Site 37 Campsite on the Mulchatna River, 3 miles upstream of the mouth of Big Bonanza Creek.

Site 38 Campsite on the Mulchatna River, 5 miles upstream of the mouth of Bonanza Creek.

Recommendations for this Unit

None.